



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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DTSC Certifies Vacaville Redevelopment Agency Site

Sacramento --- The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced certification of the hazardous substances cleanup at the Vacaville Redevelopment Agency's brownfield site located at 700/702 East Main Street and 701 Catherine Street in Vacaville.

DTSC's certification means that all environmental cleanup activities required by the cleanup plan, approved by DTSC on January 29, 2004, are complete. The site is now suitable for unrestricted (residential and commercial) land use and development

"We are pleased to announce the completion of cleanup activities at this brownfield site," said DTSC Chief Deputy Director B.B. Blevins. "Now, the redevelopment agency can move forward to put this location back to productive use for the Vacaville community. Although the specific plans for future use of the site are still being developed, the conceptual plan includes both commercial and residential use," Blevins added.

The Vacaville site is one of many brownfield sites throughout California where DTSC has overseen the investigation, cleanup, and certified the property for reuse. Brownfield sites are urban or rural, industrial, or abandoned properties that are contaminated or thought to be contaminated, and are often underutilized due to environmental cleanup costs or liability concerns.

The site was occupied from the 1930s until 2000 by various businesses. The former landowner leased the site for use as a residential/commercial duplex at 700 East Main Street, to Walker's Custom Chrome at 702 East Main Street, and to a small automobile repair shop at 701 Catherine Street.

Soil testing in the late 1990s and in 2000 by DTSC and the Vacaville Redevelopment Agency found elevated levels of copper, nickel, lead, zinc, and chromium in and around the plating shop. The Vacaville Redevelopment Agency acquired the property in 2000. The City of Vacaville under the oversight of DTSC removed contaminated materials stored on site and cleaned up surface spills associated with the plating shop. The site was then fenced and posted with warnings.

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The Vacaville Redevelopment Agency applied for and received a Cleanup Loans and Environmental Assistance to Neighborhoods (CLEAN) loan from DTSC in the spring of 2002. The CLEAN loan provided monies to help remove contamination at the site. In order to do further testing and cleanup work at the site, the Vacaville Redevelopment Agency signed a formal Voluntary Cleanup Agreement with DTSC on March 15, 2002.

The site investigation, conducted 2002 and 2004 with the funding from the CLEAN Loan program, identified lead and arsenic as contaminants of concern. In the spring of 2004 approximately 240 cubic yards of contaminated soil were excavated and transferred offsite to appropriate disposal facilities.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.